

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2020 Recreational Gray Triggerfish Season Re-Opening

Louisiana's private recreational gray triggerfish season was previously opened on March 1, 2020 and closed on May 2, 2020. The regional administrator of NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the recreational season for gray triggerfish in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will re-open at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2020. Data indicate that the 2020 recreational annual catch target of 217,100 pounds, that was previously projected to be met, has not been reached and the remaining quota is available for harvest.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and the authority given to the secretary by the commission in LAC 76:VII.335.G.5 to modify opening and closing dates of any commercial or recreational reef fish seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the regional administrator of NOAA fisheries that the seasons have been modified in adjacent federal waters, the secretary hereby declares:

The season for the recreational harvest of gray triggerfish in Louisiana state waters shall open at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and shall remain open until 12:01 a.m. on October 26, 2020 and remain closed until the regularly scheduled opening of the 2021 season on March 1, 2021. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess gray triggerfish whether within or without Louisiana waters.

Jack Montoucet
Secretary

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